

## THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

July 17, 2007

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on July 17, 2007 at 4:00pm at the Main Office Board Room, with the following members present: Ms. Driehaus, Ingram and Brewer and Messrs. Smith, Moeddel, and Fultz, with Ms. Driehaus presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Simmons, Shannon, Cox, Barnes, Melzer, Dow, Lang, Hanks, Steins, and Smith and Messrs. Merrifield, Thomas, Bigham, Koopman, Carlisle, and Wilson.

### MINUTES

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Ms. Ingram, to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2007 meeting as submitted.

Motion passed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### Letter from Margaret Singer to Kathy Lang

Kathy Lang received a letter of thanks from Margaret Singer for having goal post placed at Caldwell Park for the soccer players. This item was received for filing.

#### Article Regarding Rededication of Baseball Field in Mt. Washington

There was a newspaper article regarding the community's desire to rededicate the baseball field at the Mt. Washington Center in honor of Lester "Pop" Emrick who died in 1973. This item was received for filing.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### Program Highlight – Central Region

Stella Barnes, Supervising Recreation Coordinator of the Central Region, thanked Commission for the opportunity to highlight some of the activities in the Central Region. Ms. Barnes introduced Lynn Melzer, Service Area Coordinator of the Senior Division; Arnelle Dow, Community Center Director at the Clifton

Community Center; and John Wilson, Community Center Director at Over-the-Rhine Center.

Lynn Melzer gave a power point presentation pertaining to the senior program. In 2006 there were 5,560 senior members city wide. CRC has been serving the senior population since 1967. The senior division has a 14 passenger van that is utilized daily. 22,222 senior programs were offered in 2006. In 2007 over 22,000 meals have been served. The first Senior Olympics were held in 1980 and CRC has been offering the program since 1992. Our 40<sup>th</sup> Senior Hall of Fame will be held on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Curtis Fuller will be the emcee and Lincoln Ware will be the celebrity.

Arnell Dow gave a presentation of the program "Arts for Artists". She calls this program "Sharing the Wealth" and the workshops last 2 to 4 hours. Ms. Dow passed around a tray of various materials and then presented the art projects made from these materials. She also showed Commission a collection of beautiful etched dinner plates which were done by a group of seniors as a project.

John Wilson talked about a program that was started at the Hirsch Center to find employment for young inter-city males who have felonies. The program is now being conducted at the Over-the-Rhine, Carthage, and Bond Hill Centers also. Mr. Wilson introduced Rev. Gregory, his partner in this program. Rev. Gregory provided information on the Workforce Reentry Program that provides employment and reentry assistance to nonviolent offenders returning to Hamilton County. Rev. Gregory advised that 80% of the nonviolent offenders return to prison as violent offenders. Currently there are 495 nonviolent offenders in the Workforce Reentry Program. 70% of the people in the program find jobs within 7 days. Clients are enrolled in the program for up to a year with 3-6 months of intensive case management, employment services, and mentoring followed by at least 6 months of follow-up services.

Commission thanked staff for their presentations and their dedication to the Department.

### Information and Briefing Items

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission Foundation is planning to hold a retreat on August 18 from 9am – 1pm. Location to be announced later. The Commission is invited to attend this retreat.

Dr. Merrifield reported that he has met with staff to discuss strategies for dealing with the early retirement plan. The deadline for employees to sign up for early retirement is August 31<sup>st</sup>. It is estimated that about half of our 24 eligible employees will take early retirement.

The NRPA Congress & Exposition will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana this year. Ms. Driehaus stated that attending these conferences is very valuable. She encouraged the other Commissioners to attend if possible. The conference will be held September 25 – 29. Kathy Shannon will coordinate registration for the department. Cut off for early bird registration is August 3.

CRC's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party will take place this Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, at Sawyer Point from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Approximately 1,000 children and over 100 seniors have registered for the event.

### Youth Commission Member Report

Youth Commissioner, Tinisha Brewer, gave her report. Ms. Brewer announced that on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00pm Council Member Cole will be at the Madisonville Pool for the Sweep and Swim kick off.

On July 12<sup>th</sup> twenty-six teens, seniors, and staff were at the Mt. Washington Community Center for the Teen Advisory Meeting. This was a prelude to the November 16<sup>th</sup> teen Social event to be held at the Pleasant Ridge Community Center "Dancing Under The Stars". The teens were taught how to jitterbug and cha cha by the seniors and the teens taught the seniors some hip hop dances. The "Dancing Under The Stars" event will be a junior (13-17 years of age) and senior (50+ years of age) Prom type event.

Summer youth employment is going well. The Recreation Employment Ceremony will be held sometime the week of August 13<sup>th</sup>. Jr. Counselors received training on July 10<sup>th</sup> and the REC Employment Corp will receive training beginning July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Teen Socials planned for summer are on August 10<sup>th</sup>, Pool Party at Pleasant Ridge Pool and August 21<sup>st</sup>, Cincinnati Red's Game.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Golf Courses to have Cart Paths Installed

The bid for the installation of golf cart paths was approved at the June 19, 2007 meeting, however, Commissioners requested to know which golf courses would be affected. Jeff Koopman provided Commission with a listing of proposed cart path renovations. He explained that this is a term contract that only our department can use. It will be used for cart paths at the courses listed unless there is an emergency cart path need at one of the other courses.

### Facilities to have Athletic Hardwood Flooring Renovations

The bid for athletic hardwood flooring renovations was approved at the June 19, 2007 meeting, however, Commissioners requested to know where the flooring renovations would take place. Jeff Koopman explained that this, too, was a term contract that can be used only by our department. There is not a priority list of floor renovations. This contract will enable us to expedite floor renovations in a quicker fashion because we won't have to go out for bid on each floor renovation as it becomes necessary.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Field Trips

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the Field Trips as submitted by staff. Ms. Driehaus noted that in some cases the facility requesting permission was not listed on the request form. Staff will be advised to make sure the facility is listed on future requests.

Motion passed.

### Revision of CRC Policy #HR-10

Ms. Ingram moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the revision of the part-time/seasonal employees' portion of CRC Policy #HR-10 as submitted.

Motion passed.

### Mt. Auburn Proposal

Our Mt. Auburn Recreation Center is attached to the Taft Elementary School. We do not own any of the property but would like to keep our part of the site. The renovations would cost around \$1.8 million.

Jeff Koopman distributed hard copies and reviewed with Commission CRC's proposal for the Mt. Auburn Recreation Center. We would like to move Mt. Auburn to the top of our priority list.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the Mt. Auburn Proposal.

Motion passed.

### OTHER NOTES

Mr. Fultz presented copies of a resume for Esther S. Smith to Commission. Mr. Fultz would like Ms. Smith to be considered for Life Time Golf Privileges. Commissioners will review the resume and Mr. Fultz's request will be on the August 21<sup>st</sup> Commission agenda.

Rev. Smith stated that the Commission needs to give some thought to recognizing volunteers other than golf.

### COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at 4:00pm at the Recreation Main Office.

Meeting Adjourned.

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Denise M. Driehaus, President

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Norman C. Merrifield, Ed. D., Director

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